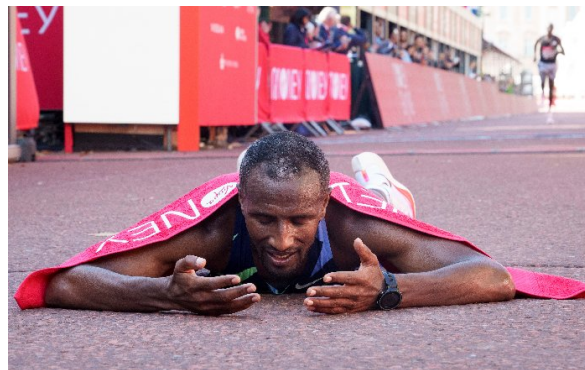


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2021 London Marathon men's winner Sisay Lemma returns in 2022

DEFENDING CHAMPION LEMMA LEADS INCREDIBLE ELITE MEN'S FIELD AT 2022 TCS LONDON MARATHON

- **Bekele, Legesu and Gerimew - three of the five fastest marathon runners in history - confirmed**
- **Olympic bronze medallist Abdi makes London debut**

The elite men's field for the 2022 TCS London Marathon contains a mouthwatering list of distance running talent, headed by last year's champion Sisay Lemma (ETH) and featuring three of the five fastest men in the history of the marathon – as well as Sir Mo Farah, the British hero and multiple world and Olympic champion.

Lemma had raced 21 times over the marathon distance before his victory in London last year. He had previously racked up wins in smaller marathons such as Frankfurt and Vienna and finished third in three different Abbott World Marathon Majors, including in London in 2020.

The 31-year-old will be eager to show the victory was not a one-off by defending his title at this year's TCS London Marathon on Sunday 2 October, but he faces competition from an incredible line-up of athletes, including three countrymen who are among the fastest marathon runners in history.

Kenenisa Bekele is the second-fastest marathon runner in history (2:01:41) and one of the greatest distance runners of all time.

Now aged 40, the three-time Olympic champion on the track is in the autumn of his career, but will be hoping for one last dance to finally get a London Marathon victory to add to his incredible profile. Bekele has twice come close to winning in London, finishing third in 2016 and second in 2017, but injuries have hampered him in recent years, ever since winning the 2019 Berlin Marathon in 2:01:41.

Also in the field are Birhanu Legese, who, with a personal best of 2:02:48, is the third-fastest man in history, and Mosinet Geremew (2:02:55), the fifth fastest. Geremew finished third last year and was the winner of this year's Seoul Marathon.

Others returning this year are 2021 runner-up Vincent Kipchumba (KEN), who also finished second in 2020, while Belgium's Bashir Abdi, the Olympic bronze medallist and European record holder (2:03:36), will make his debut in the race.

Abdi is a training partner of Farah, who will return to his home-town marathon for a fourth time – the last time being in 2019.

Other British athletes confirmed to race are Chris Thompson, Phil Sesemann – the first domestic athlete to finish at last year's race – and Mohamud Aadan.

- Kenenisa BEKELE (ETH): Marathon PB 2:01:41
- Birhanu LEGESE (ETH) 2:02:48
- Mosinet GEREMEW (ETH): 2:02:55
- Amos KIPRUTO (KEN): 2:03:13
- Sisay LEMMA (ETH): 2:03:36
- Bashir ABDI (BEL): 2:03:36
- Tamirat TOLA (ETH): 2:03:39
- Kinde ATANAW (ETH): 2:03:51
- Leul GEBRESILASE (ETH): 2:04:12
- Vincent KIPCHUMBA (KEN): 2:04:28
- Sir Mo FARAH (GBR): 2:05:11
- Naoki OKAMOTO (JPN): 2:08:04
- Naoki AIBA (JPN): 2:08:44
- Kohei FUTAOKA (JPN): 2:09:14
- Chris THOMPSON (GBR): 2:10:52
- Brett ROBINSON (AUS): 2:10:55
- Jack RAYNER (AUS): 2:11:06
- Weynay GHEBRESILASIE (GBR): 2:12:17
- Mohamud AADAN (GBR): 2:12:20
- Philip SESEMANN (GBR): 2:12:58
- Mike SAYENKO (USA): 2:13:00
- Charlie HULSON (GBR): 2:13:34
- Edward GODDARD (AUS): 2:13:45
- Matthew LEACH (GBR): 2:15:31
- Ross BRADEN (GBR): 2:16:48
- Tony Ah-Thit PAYNE (THA): 2:16:56
- William BRYAN (GBR): 2:17:53
- Nicholas BOWKER (GBR): 2:18:09
- Matthew CREHAN (GBR): 2:18:16
- Kieran WALKER (GBR): 2:19:36
- Kowal YOANN (FRA): Debut

ENDS

About the London Marathon

- The 2022 TCS London Marathon will take place on Sunday 2 October.
- The London Marathon was first held on 29 March 1981 and the millionth finisher in the history of the event crossed the line in 2016.
- Since the first London Marathon in 1981, the event has raised more than £1 billion for charity.
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust.
- Since 1981, [The London Marathon Charitable Trust](#) has awarded grants totalling in excess of £95 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.
- For more information, visit tcs.londonmarathon.com

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